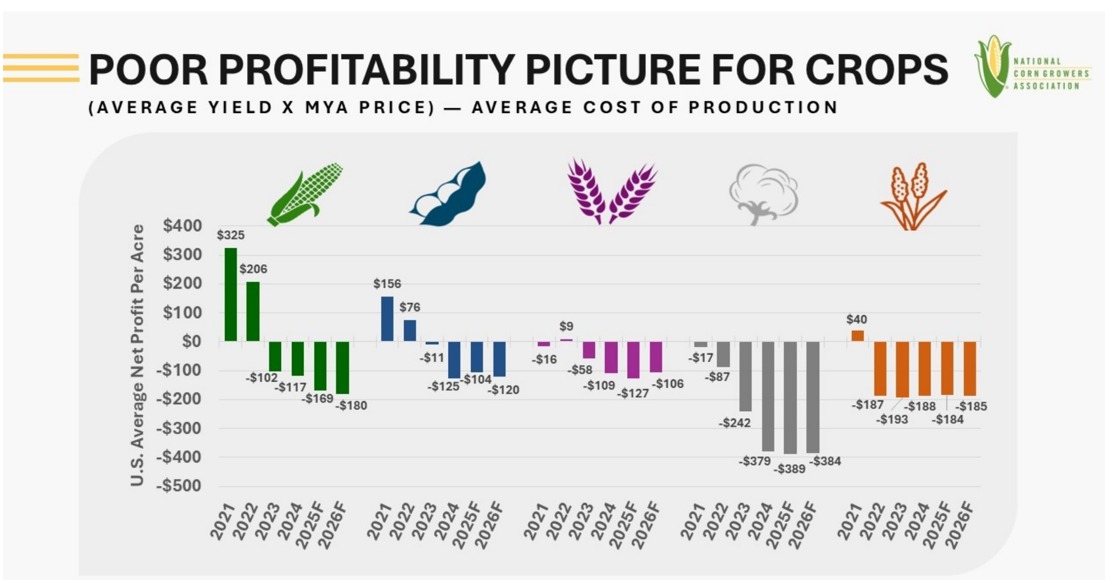
National Corn Growers Association Economic Assistance for 2025

America's corn farmers appreciate the attention to the rapidly deteriorating farm economy and the recent signals from the administration and Congress that help is coming for our nation's struggling farmers.

Corn growers are currently facing their third straight year of negative profits – the largest three-year decline in net cash receipts in history– due to declining profitability with lower prices and high input costs. This year, corn farmers are facing a loss of $0.91 per bushel, a $15.29 billion loss on the national crop. In a recent survey of more than a thousand corn farmers across the country, conducted from August 28 to September 10, **65 percent of those surveyed said that they are more concerned about their farm financials now than they were a year ago and a total of 80 percent indicated they believe the farm economy may be or "is" on the brink of a farm crisis.**

While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act included important investments in the farm safety net starting with the 2025 crop, the improved programs will not reach producers until at least October 2026. That's a year too late; farmers are already facing purchase decisions for 2026 inputs.

Rural America needs help. Corn farmers prefer to derive their incomes from markets, and market expansion is the most durable way to help farmers recover financially. In these extreme circumstances, a combination of market expansion activity and bridge payments is required to help farmers stay in operation and mitigate an economic contraction that ripples across rural communities.



Source: USDA NASS, ERS Cost of Production, September 2025 WASDE, Long-Term Outlook for 2026, NCGA Calculations as of 9/16/25

<u>NCGA encourages the following urgent actions:</u>

<u>Support Domestic Ethanol Expansion (E15)</u>
Given the state of the farm economy and the focus on creating American jobs, **the most important action to help corn farmers is for Congress to quickly pass legislation that allows consumers access to higher blends of ethanol (E15) year-round**. A new economic study released by the NCGA and the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) shows that expanding year-round, nationwide consumer **access to fuels with a 15 percent ethanol blend would provide an additional $25.8 billion to U.S. GDP, boost incomes by $10.3 billion and support 128,000 additional full-time jobs.** Passing E15 legislation this year would use more corn, create new jobs, and save consumers an average of $0.25/gallon at the pump.

<u>Continue to Secure High-Volume Trade Opportunities</u>
The corn export market has evolved dramatically in the last five years. China was the top buyer of U.S. corn in 2020/2021, with total exports valued at $5.3 billion. Unfortunately, U.S. corn exports to China steadily decreased every market year following as China imposed strong grain import restrictions to support its own domestic industry and began sourcing from Brazil or Russia. China's 26 percent retaliatory tariff on corn (in-quota, 90 percent out of quota) has further shut off that market for American-grown corn. Further, Brazil's efforts to increase production to meet China's demand weigh down global prices.

As the nation's corn growers search for alternative markets to increase and diversify demand, U.S. corn exports are heavily reliant on Mexico as the top customer. NCGA supports the administration's efforts to open new markets like Vietnam, Kenya, and India to U.S. corn and corn product exports (ethanol, DDGS) and awaits further details about these and other new trade opportunities and their quick implementation.

<u>Develop a Bridge Assistance Program for Farmers that</u>:

- Addresses a range of factors impacting farm profitability that fall outside of producers' control, such as:
    - Lost profitability due to inflated input costs
    - Losses from trade disruptions
- Considers adverse impacts on corn and corn-related products (ethanol / DDGs)
- Delivers agriculture assistance timely, accurately, and in ways that do not burden producers or the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Includes stakeholder consultation in the implementation process.

Background
NCGA represents more than 36,000 dues-paying corn growers in 48 states and the interests of more than 500,000 farmers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its affiliated associations in 27 states work together to help protect and advance corn growers' interests.

Corn is one of the largest sectors in American agriculture, with an economic contribution touching more than 500 industries in all 50 states. Corn farming for grain generated an estimated $123 billion in total economic output in 2024, making the industry a critical contributor to our nation's agricultural and economic value chains and rural communities. This year, farmers planted 98.7 million acres of corn, up 1.4 million acres from last year and representing the largest corn acreage since 1937.

These acres are expected to produce an incredible 16.8-billion-bushel crop. Roughly 35 percent of this crop will feed livestock, 33 percent will be ground into ethanol, and 17 percent of the crop is forecast to be exported. When considering the 'corn equivalent' of biofuels, products, and livestock products, a corn farmer derives about a third of the value they receive from their crop from exports.